

Agenda Report

DATE: January 7, 2002

TO: CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH: LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE (12/18/01)

FROM: CYNTHIA J. KURTZ, CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR FUNDING TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND HOMELAND DEFENSE**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that City Council:

- 1) Support efforts to provide flexible funding for local governments to address their individual needs with regard to emergency preparedness and response;
- 2) Encourage the federal government to allow local governments to be fully integrated into the nation's homeland defense system and have access to timely and coordinated intelligence information;
- 3) Oppose proposals that would provide assistance only to states and/or counties with no consideration of direct assistance to cities.

BACKGROUND:

In anticipation of some federal activity in the area of counter-terrorism assistance to local governments, staff recommends that the City Council adopt a policy that would allow the City to endorse or oppose, in a timely fashion, legislation in this area.

Since the September 11 attacks, communities across the country have been faced with increased costs of security on a number of levels. With the exception of direct aid to New York and Washington, DC, the federal government has yet to offer additional resources for local government planning and response.

There have been legislative proposals to assist local governments with these costs, but there has been no serious consideration given to them in either the House or Senate. The U.S. Conference of Mayors and National League of Cities have endorsed legislation (S 1737) by Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) that would create a \$3 billion "Homeland Security Block Grant" to provide \$3 billion in formula funds in FY 2002 to localities for a variety of law enforcement, fire and emergency services, and emergency planning purposes. Rep. John Larson (D-CT) has

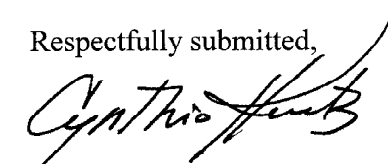
introduced legislation (HR 3161) that would provide \$1 billion in FY 2002 for local governments to engage in strategic planning for emergency preparedness on a regional level. The Larson bill would also provide an additional \$250 million each for the federal COPS program at the Justice Department and Firefighter Assistance Grant program at FEMA.

Congressman Schiff is a cosponsor of the Larson bill, while Senator Feinstein has signed onto the Clinton legislation.

FISCAL IMPACT

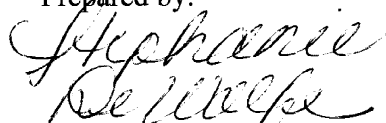
If successful, these and other bills could result in the availability of millions of dollars to local governments.

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia J. Kurtz,
City Manager

Prepared by:



Stephanie DeWolfe
Special Assistant to the City Manager